

*Why is the Coast Guard boarding
my boat?*

THREE GOALS OF COAST GUARD FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT

- 1. Ensure safety of life at sea:** Our primary goal is to have everyone come back unharmed.
- 2. Protect the resource:** Without the fisheries resource there would not be a fishery.
- 3. Ensure a level playing field:** No one fisherman should gain an unfair advantage over others by violating the regulations.

This pamphlet was designed to give a general and simplified description of what to expect and how to prepare for a Coast Guard fisheries boarding in Alaska. Any comments or feedback on Coast Guard fisheries boardings conducted in Alaska, both positive and negative, can be directed to the Coast Guard District 17 Office of Law Enforcement.

Call 1-800-478-5555

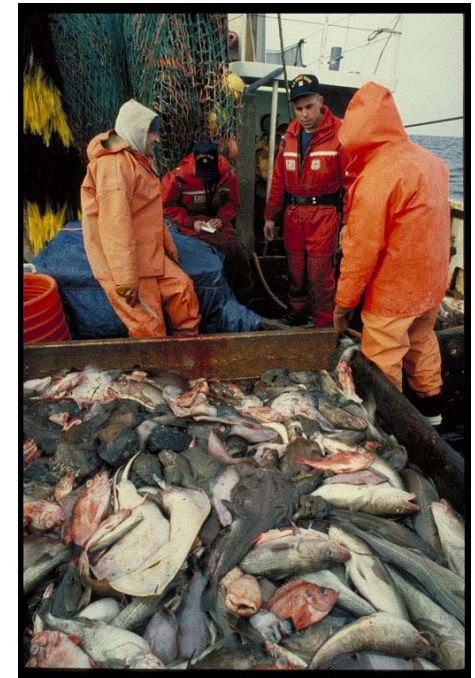
Ask to speak to someone in the Law
Enforcement Office



Office of Law Enforcement
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COAST GUARD FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT BOARDINGS IN ALASKA

PREPARING FOR A COAST GUARD BOARDING



Tips on how to prepare for a Coast
Guard fisheries boarding in Alaska and
ensure minimal disruption to your fishing
operations.

If you operate in Alaskan waters, chances are a Coast Guard cutter will board your boat. Your preparedness can go a long way toward minimizing the impact on your fishing operations. The tips listed here will give you an idea of what to expect and what you can do to expedite the process.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE DOCK

Safety: Have a dockside safety exam every two years. Use the **Ready for Sea Checklist** prior to getting underway.

Documentation: Make sure it is current and that the latest Certificate of Documentation is on board.

Fishing Permits: Are they for the current year? Do you have them onboard?

All Documentation and Permits: Keep them in a centralized location. A three ring binder with plastic page protectors works great.

Logbooks: Ensure all applicable logs are maintained in accordance with regulations. Have the logbook(s) and documentation binder together on a chart table or other location for the boarding officer to examine to minimize disruption to your operations.

Coast Guard Fisheries Boardings occur in three parts:

1. Pre-Boarding Questions
2. Initial Safety Inspection
3. Boarding

1. PRE-BOARDING QUESTIONS

Before being boarded, a cutter will attempt to hail you on VHF channel 16. Once in contact with you, they will switch to an agreed upon working frequency. To help minimize disruptions, be prepared to answer the following questions:

- ☐ Vessel Name
- ☐ Documentation Number*
- ☐ ADF&G Number*
- ☐ Length of Vessel*
- ☐ Number of People Onboard
- ☐ Target Species
- ☐ For IFQ, the names and numbers for each IFQ card being fished
- ☐ Last and Next Port of Call and Dates

** Information may be asked for by cutter*

2. INITIAL SAFETY INSPECTION

Upon boarding your vessel, the boarding team will make a quick safety check of the vessel to determine the vessel's general condition.

They will require the master or a knowledgeable crewman to take them around the vessel and into the engine room.

They will check such things as the bilges and engine room for excessive oil, leaking, unsafe wiring and other general safety hazards.

3. BOARDING

The boarding will be conducted in two simultaneous parts — a check of safety equipment and a check of fishing operations.

The safety check will examine **Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Act** requirements. They will check safety equipment to determine presence and suitable condition. The presence of a current safety exam decal will abbreviate this process. Instead of checking many safety items, the boarding officer will spot check of a few items, dramatically reducing the length of the safety check and boarding.

The check of fishing operations will include the following items:

- ☐ Vessel Documentation
- ☐ Federal Fisheries Permit
- ☐ ID for Master and Crew
- ☐ IFQ permit(s)/card(s), if fishing IFQ
- ☐ Picture ID for IFQ Card Holders
- ☐ Logbooks
- ☐ Fish Hold and Catch
- ☐ Fishing Gear